



SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF INDIANA

Todd Rokita  
Secretary of State

August 29, 2008

Dear Congressional District Chairman,

As the Education and Outreach Director for the Chief Election Officer of the State of Indiana, I thank you for your efforts in preparing your communities for this historic election. Similar to the experience of our recent primary, the general election will again place the eyes of the nation on our state and potentially many new volunteers pouring into your ranks. To ensure a smooth Election Day, I encourage you to review the Indiana election requirements included and disseminate the information to your county-level affiliates. You are responsible for ensuring your Election Day volunteers are aware of the following state laws and deadlines and they are correctly preparing voters to exercise their right to vote.

In an effort to both educate on the most common questions and prevent any cause for concern in the coming weeks, I would like to call your attention to the information included in this mailing.

Additionally, to assist in election preparations, Secretary Rokita and his staff will be touring the state helping not only county election boards and community groups, but also each party and their candidates prepare for the election. **If you are interested in having Secretary Rokita attend one of your meetings to review election procedures, absentee ballot regulations or the photo ID requirement please contact me via email at [jbauer@sos.in.gov](mailto:jbauer@sos.in.gov) or by phone at 317-232-6541.**

With your help, Indiana will have an open, accurate, and fair General Election in which all voters can have the utmost confidence.

Very truly yours,

Julia Bauer  
HAVA Education and Outreach Director  
Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita

cc: Democrat Congressional District Chairmen  
cc: Republican Congressional District Chairmen  
cc: Indiana County Election Boards

### **Absentee Ballots:**

- Though absentee voting in person at the county election board office is open to all registered voters, voting by mail is not. Unless a voter meets certain, specified criteria, they must vote in person, either at the designated location for in-person absentee voting, or on Election Day at the precinct in which they are registered. Applications to vote absentee by mail should be received **in the county election board office by, Monday October 27, 2008 - (postmarked applications will not be accepted).**
- Each voter receiving an absentee ballot by mail will also receive a copy of the enclosed Indiana Absentee Voter's Bill of Rights. The office will continue to educate voters on the three most vital points of this document: 1) they should not be pressured to vote absentee; 2) they have the right to cast their ballot in secret and; 3) voters should personally mail or return their ballot.

### **Photo ID:**

- The office has conducted an extensive voter education campaign through paid media, earned media, advertising, and other outreach regarding photo ID requirements for voting. Because of a historical increase in voter registrations, we will again send a postcard to all newly registered voters reminding them of the photo ID requirement. Additionally, there are numerous resources available for your use in further preparing voters to fulfill this requirement. Please visit [www.PhotoID.in.gov](http://www.PhotoID.in.gov) for additional information and resources.
- For voters who do not already have a valid photo ID, they can obtain an Indiana photo ID card free of charge from any Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch that issues driver licenses and ID Cards. All BMV locations that normally issue driver licenses and ID Cards will have extended hours on Election Day from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm and the day before Election Day from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm.
- The photo ID requirement applies to voters who vote in-person, either at their polling location or the designated locations for absentee in person. Voters who qualify to vote absentee by mail, or absentee by traveling board will not be required to show photo ID,

### **At the polls on Election Day:**

- The 50-foot chute is designated for voters to line up to enter the polls free from election materials and campaign supporters. The chute begins at the entrance to the room where voting will take place and extends out from the building.
- Electioneering, or campaigning, is only allowed outside of the chute area. State law defines electioneering as expressing support or opposition to any candidate or political party or expressing approval or disapproval of any public question. All signs, campaign supports and activities shall be conducted outside of this area.
- Poll workers and credentialed party workers are allowed to work within the polling place on Election Day, but a person's status as a precinct committee person does not automatically grant them access to the polls. Please review the Election Day Handbook for further details on Election Day specifics at [www.in.gov/sos/elections/hava/pdf/EDH\\_08.pdf](http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/hava/pdf/EDH_08.pdf).